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EIS Office, US Dept. of Energy Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management 1551 Hillshire Dr. M/S 011 Las Vegas, NV 89134

I am writing to oppose the use of Yucca Mountain for storage of nuclear waste. The reasons for rejecting this option are manifold; some include:

Yucca Mountain is a sacred site to the Western Shoshone Nation, and is on land that belongs to them by the Treaty of Ruby Valley.

Research has shown that water has moved through the proposed nuclear disposal site; therefore it is inevitable that radioactivity from the waste will seep into the ground water.

- Transportation of nuclear waste puts millions of people at risk in the event of an accident--specifically 50 million people in 43 states along the proposed transportation route. Accidents can and do happen, as evidenced in 1991 in Springfield, MA, when a truck carrying nuclear fuel rods crashed into the freeway median, releasing radioactive material onto the highway and road below.
- The transportation route is also dangerous because it cannot be safely secured. The State of Nevada (NWPO) estimates that a successful terrorist attack could release up to 40,000 curies from a rail cask. The rail and truck casks are easy to identify, and therefore easy to target. They have never been tested for deliberate sabotage.
- The choice of Yucca Mountain is politically motivated. It has no technical or geological basis. In fact, the immediate area is proven to be very vulnerable to earthquakes.

For serious consideration of the best alternatives see the People's Policy on Radioactive Waste: http://www.h-o-m-e.org/Yucca/index.htm.

Sincerely,

Joanna Macy, Ph.D.

Author and Educator